

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
WASHINGTON STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
June 18, 2003**

The regular meeting of the Washington State Transportation Commission was called to order at 9:00 a.m., on June 18, 2003, in Room 1D2 of the Transportation Building in Olympia, Washington.

Commissioners present were: Aubrey Davis, Chair, Ed Barnes, Elmira Forner, George Kargianis, A. Michèle Maher, Chris Marr and Connie Niva.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Commissioner Barnes, and seconded by Commissioner Maher to approve the minutes of the May 21 & 22, 2003 Commission meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY REPORT

Secretary MacDonald, opened with an introduction of Judy Giniger, recently appointed as, Director, Rail and Public Transportation Division. She explained that her primary focus would be the timely delivery of grant program projects and the Department's role in public transportation.

John Sibold, Director, Aviation Division, introduced Karl Moore, Coordinator, Air Search and Rescue Program, and explained that Mr. Moore would be leaving the Department in the near future. Mr. Sibold expressed his appreciation for the excellent job and leadership that Mr. Moore has displayed by presenting him with a plaque.

Mr. Sibold briefed the Commission regarding the important role that the Department plays in the proposal to build the Boeing 7E7 in Washington State. Secretary MacDonald thanked Mr. Sibold, Elizabeth Robbins and Department staff for their contribution in working on this project. Secretary MacDonald moved on to discuss the 2003 Funding Package outlining transportation investments and appropriations.

Commissioner Barnes suggested that the Commission prepare a resolution indicating its support of building the Boeing 7E7 in Washington.

Amy Arnis, Deputy Director, Strategic Planning and Programming, responded to Commissioner questions regarding the potential impact of the passing of the general fund capital budget.

Secretary MacDonald, distributed a handout that outlined advertised Nickel Funded projects and indicated that the Commission will be provided an update regarding bids, project status and budget. He commented regarding the Department's web site that shows project descriptions, status and financial and planning process. This information will be updated regularly and will be used as the foundation for quarterly project reporting to the Legislature. A brief outline of this information will also be added to the Gray Notebook with

an indication that detailed information may be obtained on the website location. Commissioner Barnes requested that delayed projects be flagged. Secretary MacDonald moved on to discuss the status of the Hood Canal Bridge and Tacoma Narrows Bridge. He stated that Legislators in the Pierce County area that have a specific interest in the Narrows Bridge, have formed a Legislative Oversight Committee, with Senator Oke chairing, to work with the bridge program. He also discussed the critical importance of keeping the bridge project on time. Chair Davis suggested that a Commissioner attend the oversight meetings. Secretary MacDonald then briefly outlined funding of specific projects.

Commissioner Forner commented that the Legislature or the Department needs to set aside funding for emergent needs such as economic development in rural areas. Chair Davis suggested that local communities should stress emergent need funding in their transportation planning.

Commissioner Barnes motioned, and Commissioner Kargianis seconded to move Resolution No 652 indicating the Commission's support of statewide efforts to make changes in state law that will demonstrate our state's commitment to attract Boeing to select Washington State for final construction of the Boeing 7E7s. The motion was approved unanimously.

EASTSIDE HOV AND SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS STATUS

Lorena Eng, Administrator, Northwest Region, provided a brief overview of the permitting process for the implementation of High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) hours of operation change, and the progress made to date to implement the Commission's direction from Resolution No. 643 regarding HOV lane hours of operation. She also provided a timeline that indicated specific implementation dates of highway segments with an expected completion date in August 2003.

TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING ALTERNATIVES STUDY (TIFA)

Representative Fred Jarrett, Co-Chair, TIFA Committee, commented regarding public/private partnerships. He explained revenue funding sources, value pricing and the obstacles in obtaining those funds.

Rhonda Brooks, Program Manager, Transportation Economic Partnerships, briefed the Commission regarding an ongoing legislative study on TIFA. The TIFA study is staffed by the Transportation Economic Partnerships Office. She discussed the 2002 Transportation Supplemental Budget which created a Legislative Oversight Committee to analyze and make recommendations on the financing options available for public/private partnerships to the legislature by December 1, 2003. The recommendations will also include an examination of innovative financing strategies for transportation.

NEW DEVELOPMENT IN FREIGHT

Gary Cardwell, CEO, NW Container Services Inc., presented a report on International Trade and Transportation. The report focused on keeping products flowing in Washington

State from growers and manufacturers to ports for export or domestic distribution. He explained that putting the freight on rail cars for shipping reduces highway congestion and maintenance. The development of inland distribution centers would generate economic development inland, create jobs and reduce traffic within Seattle/Tacoma limits. He outlined the explorations of short-haul/short-line rail expansion and infrastructure improvements in Washington via federal funding opportunities. He suggested that creating an ongoing dialogue among all transportation providers, growers and manufactures, local governments, and ports could benefit from an improved regional rail service throughout the Pacific Northwest.

STATUS OF LEGISLATIVE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (LTC) WORKPLAN

Paula Hammond, Chief of Staff, briefed the Commission regarding the outcome of the Legislative Transportation Committee's (LTC) recent meetings on committee organization, bylaws, adoption of an interim work plan, and the election of officers. The Committee is assisting with the formation of the Transportation Performance Audit Board, and is contacting professional organizations to nominate members for the Board. Ms. Hammond stated that as the Committee meets during the interim between sessions the Department would keep the Commission apprised of information and actions pertinent to them and the Department.

WORK PLAN FOR STRATEGIC PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING DIVISION

Charlie Howard, Director, Strategic Planning and Programming, briefed the Commission regarding the Department's preliminary transportation plan. He outlined the current state of transportation planning, where we want to go and how are we going to get there. State Planning Statute RCW 47.06 and State Programming Statute RCW 47.05 were amended in 2002/2003, and Federal Planning Requirements will be amended in 2003 as Safe Accountable Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act (SAFETEA) is debated. The conflicting and multi-priorities makes strategic direction setting difficult. The Department wants to strengthen and enhance local input from Regional Transportation Planning Organizations, counties and cities; tribes and agencies, and build a planning organization that makes the processes clear in order to coordinate transportation planning statewide. Chair Davis requested that a matrix of planning statutes and definitions of those statutes be prepared. Mr. Howard discussed the Commission and Legislative Transportation Committee ground rules, and the relationship and decision making structure between them in the future.

TARGET ZERO - WASHINGTON STATE MULTI-AGENCY PROGRAM FOR HIGHWAY SAFETY

John Moffat, Director, Washington State Traffic Safety Commission, briefed the Commission regarding "Target Zero" Washington's Strategic Plan for highway safety. Target Zero's vision is a safe and efficient system with no deaths or disabling injuries. The plan will provide measurable statewide "safe program" goals and action strategies from which all safety stakeholders can coordinate and prioritize existing and new traffic safety improvement initiatives. The Traffic Safety Commission is developing public support and seeking funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation and the commitment of

agencies to implement the plan. Lowell Porter, Deputy Chief, Washington State Patrol (WSP), briefed the Commission regarding partnering with traffic safety and law enforcement throughout the state looking at enforcement as an integral part of the traffic safety message working towards “target zero”. Mr. Porter stated that WSP utilizes field operations, enforcement, education, the media and other forms of communication to get the safety message to the public. He discussed Driving Under the Influence (DUI) enforcement stating that WSP focuses on this first in order to prevent collisions and fatalities. Mr. Porter expressed that strong partnerships with agencies and pooling together resources will aide in success. Steve Jewell, Deputy Chief, Washington State Patrol, stated that he specializes in truck safety on the highways. He commented regarding the relationships between WSP and its partners, such as the Trucking Association, towing companies, WSDOT and others explaining that these partners assist with making highways safer for the public.

Gigi Zenk, Public Affairs Director, Department of Licensing, briefed the Commission regarding intermediate and restricted driver’s licenses and commercial driver license endorsements. She explained that the Department is implementing a new system called the Motor Vehicle Title Information System (MVTIS) that will aide with tracking and identifying unsafe vehicles that move from state to state.

FINANCIAL PLAN FOR FERRY PASSENGER ONLY FAREBOX RECOVERY

Mike Thorne, CEO, Washington State Ferries (WSF), briefed the Commission regarding the results of a study conducted by WSF on improving the farebox recovery for passenger-only ferry service between Seattle and Vashon Island. Ray Deardorf, Planning Director, WSF, explained that both the existing level of service and a potential service reduction are considered, the latter as a means of reducing operating costs. The goal is to see what combinations of operating cost efficiencies and fare revenue generation could work best to achieve a minimum of 40 percent farebox recovery. Mr. Thorne and Mr. Deardorf presented several options for retaining passenger only (PO) service to Vashon with increased farebox recovery rates. The information from this presentation has been forwarded to the Legislative Transportation Committee (LTC). In the meantime, the Commission approved proceeding with the following step: Effective with the fall schedule, WSF will base the Vashon PO operating vessel in Eagle Harbor instead of Seattle to eliminate some dock leasing and salary costs; WSF will maintain the 16-hour day schedule, except for discontinuing the lightly-used 9:15 p.m. vessel from Vashon to Seattle.

Commissioner Maher motioned, and Commissioner Forner seconded to move the WSF Financial Plan For Passenger Only Farebox Recovery as amended: If fares are increased they are not to exceed 20 percent, and that the plan represents a two-year interim issue until final decisions can be made. The motion was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC AND LEGISLATOR COMMENT PERIOD

Don Williams, Gig Harbor, expressed his concerns regarding the Tacoma Narrows Bridge (TNB) Project’s plan to construct bridge project office buildings at the TNB site. Secretary MacDonald and Chair Davis provided clarification to Mr. Williams concerns.

David Freiboth, President, Inlandboatmen's Union (IBU), addressed the Commission requesting that it direct WSF to include labor protection previously provided in RFPs.

Gordon Baxter, Renton, expressed his concerns regarding farebox recovery.

Jeff Engels, IBU, expressed his concerns regarding galley services employees job stability on ferries.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Commissioner Forner reported that she and Commissioner Niva have interviewed commissioners regarding officers for FY 2004. She stated that the recommendation is that Commissioner Aubrey Davis be re-elected chair, and Commissioner George Kargianis be re-elected vice chair.

It was moved by Commissioner Forner, and seconded by Commissioner Niva, to re- elect Commissioner Davis to be chair, and Commissioner Kargianis to be vice chair, for the term beginning July 1, 2003 and ending June 30, 2004. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Kargianis reported that he attended the West Coast Corridor Conference. He explained that the conference group determined that the Governor's from Washington, Oregon, California, Alaska and their perspective transportation department's coordinate efforts to approach the federal government to obtain additional funding for interstate corridor maintenance.

Commissioner Barnes reported that he attend the Washington Highway Pavers Association meeting.

Commissioner Maher reported that she attended the Tri County Economic Development District's bus tour from Newport north to Metaline Falls. The district is expanding its efforts to insure economic development.

Commissioner Forner reported that she attended the opening of the Tulalip Casino along with Colleen Jollie, WSDOT Tribal Liaison. They also visited the Department's Aviation Division in Arlington. She met with Senator Val Stevens and visited the Smokey Point Interchange. She attended the Northwest Tribal Symposium on Transportation stating that she came away with a better understanding of working with the tribes. She also attended the Wenatchee Valley Transportation Council meeting.

Chair Davis briefly mentioned the status of the recruitment for the Commission Administrator position.

Commissioner Marr reported that he plans to attend the Tribal Economic Development Conference in Spokane. He stated that he met with strategic planners for the

Spokane Transit Authority regarding transit benchmarks. As well, he mentioned his continued work on the Spokane viaduct issues.

Commissioner Niva reported that she attended a ribbon cutting for a FAST corridor project in Everett.

The Commission meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m., on June 18, 2003.